Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, We, as South Dakotans, recognize crime victims' suffering, struggles and loss, and value them as our family members and friends, neighbors, and co-workers who have been harmed by crime; and,

Whereas, We, as individuals and communities, value core rights for crime victims that allow them to participate in justice processes with rights to information, protection, restitution, and to be heard; and,

Whereas, We value the critical assistance and services that provide for crime victims' basic needs, such as fair treatment, dignity, respect, and information, and the life essentials, such as safe housing, food, support for their children, transportation, counseling, and medical services; and,

Whereas, We value those among us who work on behalf of crime victims to not only improve rights, services, and treatment of victims of crime, but to also build a better and more just community and country; and,

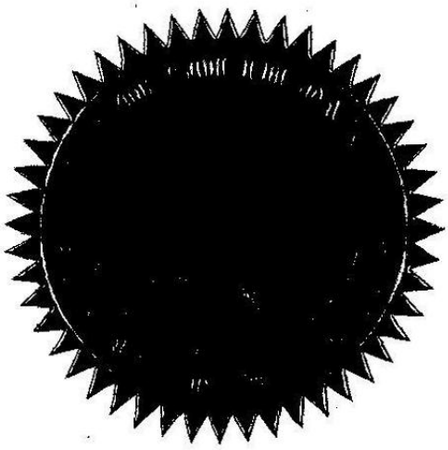
Whereas, We value our right to be free from violence, to be safe in our homes and to live in peace in our communities; and,

Whereas, South Dakota, as a state, values liberty and justice for all, including efforts to protect, enhance, and expand crime victims' rights and services:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 18-24, 2004, as

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in South Dakota, and I call upon all citizens to honor crime victims and those who serve them during this week and throughout the year.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State